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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

NOT CIRCULATE

1. The Liberal Party is developing a plan to counter the power of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay by separating the Philippine Constabulary (PC) from the Army and again placing it under the Department of the Interior.¹
2. The Liberal Party also plans to appoint Jose Avelino as Secretary of the Interior.² Liberal Party leaders hope to accomplish these moves during December 1951.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. The Philippine Department of the Interior was abolished by executive order in December 1950, and the authority and duties of this agency were transferred to the President. This action was part of a general Government reorganization which was planned as an economy measure. Previously, the Interior Department had been reduced in size by the transfer of the PC to the Army under the reorganization order for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It would appear that under the plan described in this report, the President would have complete control of the PC.

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_____ a recent report referring to the PC, residents of areas of Bulacan Province strongly resent the PC as a result of its frequent abuses of civilians.

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2. Comment. [redacted] described a pre-election agreement between Jose Avelino and President Quirino for the political comeback of Avelino, presumably as the 1953 Liberal Party candidate for Vice President.

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Comment. Many Liberal Party members blame Magsaysay and the Army for the fact that the recent November elections were clean. According to a Manila press report of 22 November 1951, the separation of the PC from the Army was one of the recommendations which Liberal Party leaders made to President Quirino at a conference at Baguio on 21 November 1951. According to this press report, the recommendation was designed to prevent other such free elections.

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An additional report stating that Avelino is to be appointed to the post of Interior Secretary has been received. According to this report, as Quirino's hatchetman, Avelino would be responsible for regaining control of the provinces for the Liberal Party machine.

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